

opportunity for an education. Regular attendance must be insisted on and enforced. Backward pupils from whatever cause should have special consideration. For a short time a special class was conducted in Fort William for sub-normal pupils with good results, but unfortunately has been discontinued. Backward children are potential if not actual delinquents and fall easily into the hands of those who prey upon human life.

As, with due regard to the influences of heredity and environment, the final appeal is to the moral fibre of the individual, we should not neglect so great a factor in child-welfare as that of religious training; nor can we place too much emphasis upon the need of vital religion in the life of every individual in the community.

Many of our social problems would be solved if to love God and to love our neighbor were the rule of living.

As the embodiment of Public Option in regard to the problems affecting child-life in the District stands the Children's Protection Act by Order-in-Council, every phase of child-life, every influence for good or ill that bears directly or indirectly upon children, is properly within our sphere of action. With offices in Fort William and an Inspector giving full time to this work, we have the means of recording and investigating every complaint sent in. In addition to financial and sympathetic co-operation, which are necessary, we ask that those knowing of cases requiring investigation would immediately and fully report to the office of the Society, Fort William.

As far as possible our work is done quietly and confidentially, but our action in any given case may be ascertained by those interested applying to the Secretary.

FRANK BLAIN,
Inspector.

PLAYGROUNDS—PORT ARTHUR'S NEED.

"The thing that most needs to be understood about play is that it is not a luxury, but a necessity. It is not simply something that a child likes to have; it is something he must have if he is ever to grow up. It is more than an essential part of his education; it is an essential part of the law of his growth, of the process by which he becomes a man at all. . . .

"The 'boy problem,' as we call it, is really a grown-up problem. The boy is all right. He breaks our laws, but he does so in obedience to a law that is older than ours, a law that has never failed to get its way or else to impose a penalty—and to collect it. . . .

"When 'the children' were left out in the planning of our cities, when we closed nature's path against the growing child, we made it mathematically certain that he should seek some other path or cease to grow at all. If opportunity for play is denied, and by just so far as it is denied, stunting and perversion are the absolutely inevitable results."—*Joseph Lee.*

The following speech was delivered by Mr. I. L. Matthews recently at the Y.M.C.A. So true and important are the utterances and so urgently is action needed in the direction indicated that the full text is reproduced and commended to all thinking men and women.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very glad to have the opportunity to take some share in the spread of the gospel of playgrounds. One of the greatest problems of the twentieth century is the conservation which means the utilization of the leisure time of the people of our country; for only in this way shall we get an educated people, and only through an educated people can we hope to receive economic justice and responsible political freedom and the conservation of the resources of the whole earth.

It is altogether unfortunate that any child of our country should be permitted to toil in our factories, in our shops and in our tenements when that child should be out playing; whose school has no playground and whose only outside consists of the public streets bounded by the gutters of these streets and too often associated with gutter snipes in his sports and play. So long as